

By: Lopez

H.B. No. 1800

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program to establish community collaboratives to address financial exploitation of elderly persons in this state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Community collaborative" means a community collaborative established under the pilot program.

(2) "Department" means the Department of Family and Protective Services.

(3) "Financial exploitation" has the meaning assigned by Section 281.001, Finance Code.

(4) "Pilot program" means the pilot program established under Section 2 of this Act.

SECTION 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVES TO ADDRESS FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF ELDERLY PERSONS. (a) Not later than December 1, 2021, the department shall develop and implement a pilot program to establish community collaboratives under which entities with an interest in preventing financial exploitation of elderly persons collaborate to help prevent, protect against, and prosecute that exploitation and otherwise improve the financial security of elderly persons. To the extent possible, each community collaborative should include the following entities as participants:

(1) at least one social service agency or other entity

1 capable of providing services to the community aimed at preventing  
2 financial exploitation, including financial counseling, benefits  
3 assistance, insurance counseling, presentations and other  
4 educational information on scams, fraud, and identity theft  
5 targeted at elderly persons, and money management and employment  
6 services;

7 (2) at least one local court with jurisdiction over  
8 guardianship proceedings; and

9 (3) the office of at least one prosecuting attorney in  
10 the community that has an independent unit committed to  
11 investigating and prosecuting financial exploitation.

12 (b) In developing and implementing the pilot program, the  
13 department shall:

14 (1) consult with the Elder Financial Safety Center or  
15 another entity familiar with designing and maintaining similar  
16 community collaboratives; and

17 (2) establish the collaboratives in at least five  
18 different geographical areas of this state that are representative  
19 of diverse communities with different resources and services to  
20 evaluate how the collaborative model can be adapted to different  
21 communities.

22 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2022, the  
23 department shall prepare and submit a report to the governor,  
24 lieutenant governor, and each member of the legislature that  
25 includes:

26 (1) a description and summary of the pilot program,  
27 including a description of where each community collaborative was

1 established and the entities participating in each collaborative;

2 (2) the department's evaluation of the effect of each  
3 collaborative in the community in which it was implemented; and

4 (3) a recommendation as to whether the community  
5 collaboratives should be continued or terminated.

6 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. The pilot program terminates and  
7 this Act expires September 1, 2023.

8 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
9 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
10 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
11 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
12 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.